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Ethnography & Ethnology  
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**Ethnography & Ethnology Essay**

**Introduction** Dad’s Weekend, Mom’s Weekend, every weekend, and even during the weekdays, WSU campus after dark is crawling with students, and Pullman natives, making their way into bars at night. The dimmed lighting, the staggered people slowly filling the room, and the abundance of alcohol flowing freely from bottle to tap lures many customers through the doors. ID’s at the door, no cover charge. Why do people flock to these establishments? Why is the supposed rumor that 5 percent of all ***Busch Light*** sales are from WSU’s campus alone? A strong stereotype of being a party school have been established, and confirmed by many students past and present.   
 I chose this subculture to study because it directly affects my life and my surroundings. I was intrigued to actually step back from partaking, and saw that this is actually a great place and time to study American students on a pre-comprised ideal of how one should act when attending WSU Pullman. Although I cannot observe every single day of the week at different bars, on each occasion and each location, I find that switching it up a little each week from this bar to that bar, and interacting with the localities was a great way to collect some data, due to the fact that I could not experience open to close bar nights from each bar, it differs. Here in my ethnography assignment, I hope to closely observe body language, spoken-language, rituals and social behaviors and social artifacts such as the ‘stubby glasses’ and beer mugs offered to frequent-buyer customers to better understand why the population of Pullman is so strongly attracted to the nightlife and social aspects offered. I hope to clearly state the situations and common occurrences that happen at these locations, before, during, and after hours. I took a sober stance and watched as the story began to unfold along the warm summer breeze.

**Methodology**  
 Each week Pullman’s ***The Zzu*** offers a deal nobody can resist. ‘Taco Tuesday’ consists of 75 cent tacos and 50 cent Pabst beers, pool tables, and air-hockey as well as sign-up for karaoke. The past weekend, a few friends and I were asked to come to The Zzu to drink and partake in singing karaoke. I being over 21, find that the age range this study includes is between 21 and up. My goal in this study was to observe social interactions before intoxication, during, and after, to observe as a sober perspective and as a participant on multiple occasions. I think as a current active student of Anthropology, I would be a good source to convey the findings from this study.

**Data Presentation and Analysis**  
 Previous to attending the social function of meeting friends at a bar, most people partake in what is called a “pre-funk” shortened terms of previous to the actual function, subjects are to drink in excess beforehand, and are to walk slightly intoxicated, to the location they have pre-determined. In this “pre-funk” drinking games such as quarters, beer pong, and taking back shots of liquor are common. After this event, the group usually travels to the main attraction, the bar between 9~10pm is the usual hour most of the group will trickle into the bar between then and closing time. Finally arriving at the bar, IDs are presented, and dimness occurs as friends walk closer towards the counter to purchase more alcohol to quickly imbibe.  
 The bulk of the night is spent schmoozing around with a drink in hand, networking between friend groups, intermingling between new friends and old friends and potential friends. The eye glances exchanged constantly between sexually attracted individuals become a blur as what is called “beer goggles” appear, and unattractive characters begin to look a little more appealing. The high tension/relaxation area has become a breeding ground for binge drinking, mistakes and sexual innuendos to be exchanged all night, and even carry on to “hook ups” between people who have the courage of their convictions to say hello to the attractor. The most common inconsistency would be the people coming in and out of the bar where I could not watch every single person, since there were so many! This American social situation shows the typical college lifestyle of a student or someone living in the college-area, on a typical night of drinks with friends.  
 Some cultural values I viewed were between the female demographic. Females have the most cultural values in this situation beyond any man that passes them by. In a situation, let’s say a female says hello to another female. Was the tone inferred as friendly, or hostile? Was the hello only to keep up appearances, and to pretend to be nice? Or was it just to say hello, and nothing more. I’ve found that being mean or catty to other females, as a female, has turned out to be the most defensive idea. My friend on the other hand being nice to everyone, always, is rejected and even ignored upon numerous occasions. Especially with alcohol involved, these communication attempts have been varied on each occasion. Most college students would call a successful night, one that ends in blacking out, or becoming so intoxicated, their memories tend to fail them the next day, and where a roaring hangover is proof and is more material to share with friends on more occasions visiting the bars.  
 The function of going to a bar would be to socially interact with strangers and friends alike. This social aspect has taught me and I have seen the immense amount of drinking that occurs to give people ‘liquid courage’ to speak to a crush, or sing a song on the karaoke. A chance to invite that girl out you’ve been eyeing for months, out for a drink – to initiate friendships, to strengthen old friendships, and make new ones. This ease of social networking usually begins and ends with alcohol, and the letting go of inhibitions and just sitting back to watch all of the events of the night unfold; stress is releases, and fun is to be had.

**Ethnology**  
 The similarities between what I see from the essay by CCC’s Mason, in the Play, category - writes about bowling how interactions between age and gender change constantly, to stay out late, and eat junk food and hang out with friends. Mason writes that in these types of social situations people tend to “unintentionally display their morals, values and cultural beliefs. “ (Mason).  
 In Mason’s study, there is a pre-bowling, bowling, and after-bowling situation where people situate themselves into groups or social stances of flirting, sexual tension ensues. The social aspect of this entire event mirrors my study, but in an older age-set. The pre-pubescent interactions between teenagers in the bowling alley with boyfriends, best friends, and family situations, all tied in together in the same format of my study. The space necessary, dimmed lights, sexual tension, fried foods, music blaring, dancing, and girls being “corralled” to leave once the establishment was closing.  
 The differences I’ve seen are only of that by age that I read of. When Mason writes about teenagers and provocative dancing; seems all too familiar to the same scene, seen in any bar, on any given weekend. The only biggest difference would be of that where the teenagers still were required to have adults supervise these activities, where as my event does not require supervision by adults, but mostly just friends looking out for one another, still acting young and vibrant. I propose that bowling could be mirrored easily with an age differentiation for teenagers looking to just hang out and where socialization can occur, and friends can bond.

**Conclusion** In conclusion, more research is always necessary in situations with so many different people in one room, having so many different conversations. The social strata, and which bar, and where you go could all differ greatly on the outcome of how people act and react to the environment. I feel that the social situations are ever changing for how would a biker bar look like, what conversations would be had? What would happen in a wine-bar? What food would they serve, and how would they eat it? Utensils? Hands? Skewers? Tapas perhaps. I suppose all over-21-only establishments differ for what venue they are appealing to – be it a club based bar, or a video-game and gambling bar. Much research has to be done between now and forever because all social interactions change over time and in different areas, countries, and cultures. Many questions arise after this study was done, where my main findings could be the jumping off point for various discussions – female to female interactions, alcohol and courage, stress relief and alcohol, friendships and hook ups – many topics could arise from this particular study, and I hope in the future, that people will look at social situations more clearly to watch human interaction and the development of.